

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 514

To amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance vocational rehabilitation benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 3, 2009

Mr. AKAKA introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance vocational rehabilitation benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Rehabilita-
5 tion and Training Improvements Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE FOR VETERANS PAR-**
2 **TICIPATING IN A PROGRAM OF REHABILITA-**
3 **TION.**

4 (a) MODIFICATION OF AMOUNT OF SUBSISTENCE
5 ALLOWANCE.—Subsection (b) of section 3108 of title 38,
6 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

7 “(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the
8 amount of the subsistence allowance to be paid to a vet-
9 eran under this chapter for a month during which the vet-
10 eran participates in a rehabilitation program under this
11 chapter shall be the amount equal to the national average
12 of the amount of basic allowance for housing payable
13 under section 403 of title 37 for that month for a member
14 of the uniformed services in pay grade E–5 with or with-
15 out dependents, as applicable.”.

16 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
17 subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2009, and
18 shall apply with respect to subsistence allowances payable
19 under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, for
20 months beginning on or after that date.

1 **SEC. 3. REIMBURSEMENT FOR COSTS OF PARTICIPATION**
2 **IN A PROGRAM OF REHABILITATION FOL-**
3 **LOWING SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF PRO-**
4 **GRAM OF REHABILITATION.**

5 Section 3108 of title 38, United States Code, is
6 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
7 section:

8 “(j)(1) The Secretary may, under such regulations as
9 the Secretary shall prescribe for purposes of this sub-
10 section, pay to each veteran who successfully completes
11 participation in a rehabilitation program under this chap-
12 ter an amount to reimburse the veteran for costs incurred
13 by veteran as a direct consequence of participation in the
14 program. The costs for which payment may be made under
15 this subsection may include child care expenses, costs for
16 clothing for interviews for employment, and such other
17 costs as the Secretary may prescribe in such regulations.
18 The amounts payable in reimbursement for any such costs
19 shall be the amounts determined in accordance with such
20 regulations.

21 “(2) Any payment of costs in reimbursement of a vet-
22 eran under this subsection is in addition to the subsistence
23 allowance payable to the veteran under this section.”.

1 **SEC. 4. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF VETERANS**
2 **ENROLLED IN PROGRAMS OF INDEPENDENT**
3 **LIVING SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE.**

4 Section 3120 of title 38, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) by striking subsection (e); and

7 (2) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
8 section (e).

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